

Incident-specific RICT Activation Notification

PURPOSE: The purpose of this note is to activate an Incident-specific RICT for implementing activities and decisions on drinking water concerns involving Marcellus Shale drilling in Dimock, PA. The Incident-specific RICT should include as a minimum, representatives from HSCD, WPD, EAID, ORC, OPA and OSCR. Other programs are welcome to join the kick-off meeting which will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2010 at 10:00am in the Regional Response Center (RRC). If you are unable to make the meeting the bridge line **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy** will be available.

BACKGROUND: The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) issued an order to the Cabot Oil and Gas Company to provide drinking water and/or methane treatment systems for the affected residences in Dimock, PA due to contamination of private drinking water wells resulting from the Marcellus Shale drilling operations in the area. Cabot Oil and Gas while not in agreement with the findings of the order proceeded with actions in an apparent effort to comply. These efforts included providing alternate water, offering individual home treatment systems and eventually establishing an escrow account which would enable homeowners to fund the expense of providing their own alternative water arrangements. PADEP recently determined that Cabot had fulfilled the terms of the order and agreed that the company could withdraw any future provision of alternate water. However, a review of the limited data available to EPA raises questions as to the adequacy and safety of private drinking water. Furthermore, concerned citizens have contacted the EPA Administrator requesting federal help to ensure their drinking water is safe.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES: A briefing was held for the EPA Administrator on 12/16/11 giving her options on how to address the situation. An action plan was developed and RICT members will help with ensuring that the plan is implemented. Further details will be given at the RICT meeting.